



## **CALGARY**

# **Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan**

## **November 16, 2015**

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are prepared by CBC news editor Bryan Labby.

### **Objectives:**

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as, an ESL classroom resource for instructors

### **Contents:**

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta.

Lesson Plan prepared by Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

---

© CBC 2015 Permission is granted to reproduce these pages for educational purposes only. For more information on copyright, please click: <http://www.cbc.ca/permissions>

## NEWSCAST 1: TRANSCANADA WINS CONTRACT FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINE IN MEXICO



Photo Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/transcanada-mexico-gas-pipeline-1.3314118>

### WARM UP

Instructions: Look at the photo. What do you know about pipelines? Are you familiar with any specific pipeline projects? Have you heard of the Keystone pipeline project?

### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Look at the following words. Circle the words you do not know.

squashed      Keystone pipeline      TransCanada      contract  
build      own      operate      opportunities

### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Match the words above with the correct definition below.

WORD	DEFINITION
	possibilities
	flattened; denied
	a Canadian company
	a proposed oil pipeline system in Canada and the United States
	design; create

	to have or possess
	drive; maneuver; control
	an agreement

(See answer key)

### LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Listen to newscast 1 for overall comprehension. After listening, respond to the following question:

How much of the newscast did you understand?

25%                  50%                  75%                  100%

Now summarize what you heard. If you are in a class, work with a partner. Take turns to summarize the newscast. If you are doing this lesson independently, record yourself summarizing the story and play it back.

After summarizing the story, how much of the newscast did you understand?

25%                  50%                  75%                  100%

Is your answer the same as above or different? Listening for overall comprehension is usually easier than summarizing. As you listen to English newscasts, try to summarize what you've heard. The ability to summarize information is an important skill as we do this all of the time in or work and outside of work. Can you think of examples in your daily life where you have to summarize information in speech and in writing?

### LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Listen to newscast 1 again and fill in the blanks with the word that you hear.

Days \_\_\_\_\_ US president, Barrack Obama, \_\_\_\_\_ the Keystone pipeline, TransCanada has won a \$\_\_\_\_\_ million contract with Mexico's Federal Electricity Commission to build, own, and operate a \_\_\_\_\_ gas pipeline.

The Calgary-based company says the new pipeline will be \_\_\_\_\_ in 2017. They \_\_\_\_\_ own and operate two pipeline systems in Mexico and are working to complete two others. The company continues to look for more \_\_\_\_\_ in Mexico.

(See answer key)

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

Why are pipelines controversial?

## NEWSCAST 2: 101-YEAR-OLD WAR VETERAN SHARES WORLD WAR II STORIES



Photo Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-chemist-101-shares-wwii-stories-from-the-lab-1.3312477>

### WARM UP

How old is this man? What does the poppy on his jacket symbolize? Did you wear a poppy for Remembrance Day? Why or why not? What other symbols do people wear to show their support or dedication? Do you think it is important to capture and share the stories of our elders? Why or why not? Do you think it is important to share stories of war? Why or why not?

### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Look at the words below for 45 seconds. After turn your paper over and write down the words you remember. Give yourself 1 minute.

veteran	screens	convoys	enemies	submarines	invented
curtains	air raids	light-proof	research	solution	limited
secret	projects				

If you are in a classroom, compare your list of words with a partner. If you are working individually, compare your list with the original list.

How many words did each of you remember. Which ones are similar? Discuss which words you were able to recall? Which words could you not recall? Why?

## VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Match the words with the definitions provided.

Answer	Word	Definition
	1) veteran	a) a group of ships or vehicles travelling together
	2) smoke screen	b) material to cover a window
	3) convoys	c) an answer to a difficult problem or situation
	4) enemies	d) created, designed, made up
	5) submarines	e) hostile people or nations
	6) invented	f) a systematic investigation
	7) curtains	g) a small amount
	8) air raids	h) a cloud of smoke to hide military operations
	9) light-proof	i) something that is kept unknown or unseen
	10) research	j) warships equipped with missiles
	11) solution	k) something done for a particular purpose
	12) limited	l) a person who has served in the military
	13) secret	m) able to block out light completely
	14) projects	n) an attack where bombs are dropped from a plane

(See answer key)

## LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Listen to newscast 2 for overall comprehension. After listening, respond to the following question:

How much of the newscast did you understand?

25%                      50%                      75%                      100%

Circle the definition that best describes this newscast for you?

- a) This newscast was very difficult to understand after listening one time.
- b) This newscast was difficult to understand after listening one time.
- c) This newscast was easy to understand after listening one time.
- d) This newscast was very easy to understand after listening one time.

## LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Listen to newscast 2 again and fill in the blanks with the word that you hear.

101-year-old Second World War \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Beaubien is sharing his World War II \_\_\_\_\_. Beaubien helped create smoke screens to protect \_\_\_\_\_ in the St. Lawrence River from enemy submarines. He also \_\_\_\_\_ blackout curtains to help the city of London during air

raids. The curtains were light-proof so lit rooms couldn't be seen from \_\_\_\_\_.

Beaubien , a Monreal-educated chemist said, " \_\_\_\_\_ the war, you don't have months and months and months of research. You've got to find a \_\_\_\_\_ today, in a very limited time."

After the war, Beaubien worked on \_\_\_\_\_ projects at the National Research Council in Ottawa.

(See answer key)

### **SPEAKING ACTIVITY 1**

With a colleague or a friend, discuss the following questions:

- a) What did the man in this story invent?
- b) In your opinion, what importance do you think this man's inventions had during the war?
- c) What other inventions can you think of that occurred during war time?
- d) What recent inventions can you think of?

### NEWSCAST 3: ALBERTA'S NEW BENEFITS FOR LOW-INCOME PARENTS



Photo: Alberta Finance Minister Joe Ceci Photo Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/alberta-announces-new-supports-for-children-families-ymca-1.3312570>

#### WARM UP

Who is the man in the photo? What is his position? What does low-income mean? What are low-income parents? In your opinion, what amount of household income is low?

#### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Look at the following words/expressions. Circle the words you do not know.

press conference  
maximum benefit

Alberta Child Benefit  
average

annual income  
the right thing to do

#### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Match the words above with the correct definition below.

WORD/EXPRESSION	DEFINITION
	A tax-free monthly payment to made to eligible families to help with the cost of raising a child
	Total amount made in a year (before taxes or deductions)
	Compelling, ethical, or correct action
	The top amount an agency will pay to an individual
	An amount that is calculated by dividing the total sum of values in a set by their number
	An interview given to journalists to make an important announcement

**LISTENING ACTIVITY 1**

Instructions: Listen to newscast 3 for overall comprehension.

**LISTENING ACTIVITY 2**

Instructions: Listen to newscast 3 again and respond to the questions below.

1. On what day was the press conference held?
2. Where was the press conference held?
3. What was the purpose of the press conference?
4. How many families will benefit?
5. Who is eligible for the new Alberta Child Benefit?
6. What is the maximum amount provided for a family with one child?
7. If a family has 4 or more children, how much would they receive?
8. Approximately, how many children will be helped as a result?
9. How much will it cost the province of Alberta?

Listen to the newscast again if you were unable to answer all of the questions.

(See answer key)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

In your opinion is this the right thing to do? Why or why not? Do you agree this should have been done long ago? Why or why not? What other programs are you familiar with that assist children? What other things should the government do to assist people?



## LANGUAGE FOCUS 1: STATING NUMBERS

Stating numbers can be challenging in another language. There are differences in the use of numbers between British and American English. In Canada, you will hear both used.

See the chart below of examples of numbers from one to a million:

1	one
21	twenty-one
84	eighty-four
100	a/one hundred
200	two hundred
432	British English: four hundred and thirty-two American English: four hundred thirty-two
1,000	a/one thousand
1,001	a/one thousand and one
1,100	one thousand one hundred/eleven hundred
2,000	two thousand
2,932	British English: two thousand nine hundred and thirty-two American English: two thousand nine hundred thirty-two
3,100	three thousand one hundred American English: also thirty-one hundred
100,000	a/one hundred thousand
1,000,000	a/one million

Saying **a** instead of **one**:

- You can say a hundred and fifty (150), but NOT two thousand a hundred and fifty (2,150).
- Say two thousand one hundred and fifty.
- People often use **a** instead of **one** in conversation, but it is better to use **one** in technical contexts.

Reference: <http://www.macmillandictionaries.com/MED-Magazine/July2004/21-Language-Awareness-Numbers-UK.htm>

## LANGUAGE FOCUS 2: TIME EXPRESSIONS

In this week's news stories, we hear about things that happened after and during the events discussed.

After and during are common time expressions.

**During** tells us about a duration/ period/ length of time.

For example:

Blackout curtains helped the city of London **during** the war.

**After** means the period of time following an event.

For Example:

After US president, Barrack Obama, squashed the Keystone pipeline, TransCanada won a new contract.

Time expressions are often conjunctions or adverbs (adverb phrases), or prepositional phrases.

**Instructions:** Look at the following time expressions and their meanings.

Time Expression	Part of Speech	Synonyms	Definition
as soon as	conjunction	immediately after, when	the earliest that something can happen
after	preposition	later	during the period of time following (an event).
during	preposition*	throughout	duration of time
as	adverb	while, just as	something that happens at the same time something else is taking place
then	adverb	afterward, next	being next in a series of events
by the time	Adverb phrase	by then, by now	not later than the time
now	adverb	currently	at the present time or moment
while	conjunction		at the same time as; during
when	conjunction	after which; just then	as soon as; at the same time as
within minutes	Prepositional phrase	before minutes had passed	inside a time frame of minutes
*Also considered a duration adverb			

## LANGUAGE FOCUS: ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Using the time expressions listed on the previous page, complete the story of the Friday night attack on Paris.

### FRIDAY NIGHT ATTACK ON PARIS

A series of attacks targeted young concert-goers, soccer fans, and Parisians \_\_\_\_\_ enjoying a Friday night out at popular nightspots.

The series of attacks commenced with two suicide bombings and an explosion outside the national stadium \_\_\_\_\_ a soccer match.

\_\_\_\_\_ the police become aware of the attack, the president, whom was at the match, was escorted from the soccer stadium.

\_\_\_\_\_ another group of attackers sprayed cafes outside of a concert hall with machine gunfire.

\_\_\_\_\_ they stormed inside the concert hall, and opened fire on a panicked audience.

\_\_\_\_\_ police approached the attackers, the attackers killed themselves.

In addition to the deaths at the soccer stadium and concert hall, dozens of others were killed at other locations \_\_\_\_\_ the night.

\_\_\_\_\_ the attacks were over, at least 127 people were dead.

The police believe that all of the attackers are \_\_\_\_\_ dead.

It has been the deadliest violence to strike France since the Second World War.

# CBC CALGARY TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
<b>Introduction</b>	Hi. This is Bryan Labby. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of November 16th.	0:00
<b>Newscast 1</b>  <b>TransCanada wins contract for natural gas pipeline in Mexico</b>	<p>Days after US president, Barrack Obama, squashed the Keystone pipeline, TransCanada has won a \$660 million contract with Mexico's Federal Electricity Commission to build, own, and operate a natural gas pipeline.</p> <p>The Calgary-based company says the new Pipeline will be completed in 2017. They already own and operate two pipeline systems in Mexico and are working to complete two others. The company continues to look for more opportunities in Mexico.</p>	0:05
<b>Newscast 2</b>  <b>101-year-old war veteran shares World War II stories</b>	<p>101-year-old Second World War veteran Paul Beaubien is sharing his World War II stories. Beaubien helped create smoke screens to protect convoys in the St. Lawrence River from enemy submarines. He also invented blackout curtains to help the city of London during air raids. The curtains were light-proof so lit rooms couldn't be seen from outside.</p> <p>Beaubien , a Montreal-educated chemist said, "During the war, you don't have months and months and months of research. You've got to find a solution today, in a very limited time."</p> <p>After the war, Beaubien worked on secret projects at the National Research Council in Ottawa.</p>	0:34
<b>Newscast 3</b>  <b>Alberta's new benefits for low-income parents</b>	<p>At a press conference in Calgary on Tuesday, Alberta Finance Minister, Joe Ceci, announced the new Alberta Child Benefit for the 199,000 families across the province with an annual income below \$41,220 (dollars). The maximum benefit for a family with one child is \$1,100. The amount would increase to \$2,750 for families with four or more children -- an average of \$1,688 per family each year.</p> <p>The new child benefit will cost the province \$336 million and should help 380,000 children. Minister Ceci said, "It's the right thing to do and it should have been done a long time ago."</p>	1:13

## ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1

### TRANSCANADA WINS CONTRACT FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINE IN MEXICO

#### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Match the words above with the correct definition below.

WORD	DEFINITION
opportunities	possibilities
squashed	flattened; denied
TransCanada	a Canadian company
Keystone pipeline	a proposed oil pipeline system in Canada and the United States
build	design; create
own	to have or possess
operate	drive; maneuver; control
contract	an agreement

#### LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Listen to newscast 1 again and fill in the blanks with the word that you hear.

Days **after** US president, Barack Obama, **squashed** the Keystone pipeline, TransCanada has won a \$**660** million contract with Mexico's Federal Electricity Commission to build, own, and operate a **natural** gas pipeline.

The Calgary-based company says the new pipeline will be **completed** in 2017. They **already** own and operate two pipeline systems in Mexico and are working to complete two others. The company continues to look for more **opportunities** in Mexico.

## ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2: 101-YEAR-OLD WAR VETERAN SHARES WORLD WAR II STORIES

### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Match the words with the definitions provided.

Answer	Word	Definition
L	1) veteran	a) a group of ships or vehicles travelling together
H	2) smoke screen	b) material to cover a window
A	3) convoys	c) an answer to a difficult problem or situation
E	4) enemies	d) created, designed, made up
J	5) submarines	e) hostile people or nations
D	6) invented	f) a systematic investigation
B	7) curtains	g) a small amount
N	8) air raids	h) a cloud of smoke to hide military operations
M	9) light-proof	i) something that is kept unknown or unseen
F	10) research	j) warships equipped with missiles
C	11) solution	k) something done for a particular purpose
G	12) limited	l) a person who has served in the military
I	13) secret	m) able to block out light completely
K	14) projects	n) an attack where bombs are dropped from a plane

### LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Listen to newscast 2 again and fill in the blanks with the word that you hear.

101-year-old Second World War **veteran** Paul Beaubien is sharing his World War II **stories**. Beaubien helped create smoke screens to protect **convoys** in the St. Lawrence River from enemy submarines. He also **invented** blackout curtains to help the city of London during air raids. The curtains were light-proof so lit rooms couldn't be seen from **outside**.

Beaubien, a Monreal-educated chemist said, "**During** the war, you don't have months and months and months of research. You've got to find a **solution** today, in a very limited time."

After the war, Beaubien worked on **secret** projects at the National Research Council in Ottawa.

**ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3:  
ALBERTA'S NEW BENEFITS FOR LOW-INCOME PARENTS**

**VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2**

Instructions: Match the words above with the correct definition below.

WORD/EXPRESSION	DEFINITION
Child Benefit	A tax-free monthly payment to made to eligible families to help with the cost of raising a child
Annual income	Total amount made in a year (before taxes or deductions)
The right thing to do	Compelling, ethical, or correct action
Maximum Benefit	The top amount an agency will pay to an individual
Average	An amount that is calculated by dividing the total sum of values in a set by their number
Press Conference	An interview given to journalists to make an important announcement

**LISTENING ACTIVITY 2**

Instructions: Listen to newscast 3 again and respond to the questions below.

1. On what day was the press conference held?  
Tuesday
2. Where was the press conference held?  
Calgary
3. What was the purpose of the press conference?  
To announce the new Alberta Child Benefit / To announce increases to the Alberta Child Benefit
4. How many families will benefit?  
199,000
5. Who is eligible for the new Alberta Child Benefit?  
Low-income parents / Families that make less than \$41,220 per year
6. What is the maximum amount provided for a family with one child?  
\$1,100
7. If a family has 4 or more children, how much would they receive?  
\$2,750
8. Approximately, how many children will be helped as a result?  
380,000
9. How much will it cost the province of Alberta?  
336 million dollars / 336,000,000

## ANSWER KEY FOR LANGUAGE FOCUS: TIME EXPRESSIONS

### LANGUAGE FOCUS: ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Using the time expressions listed on the previous page, complete the story of the Friday night attack on Paris.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT ATTACK ON PARIS

A series of attacks targeted young concert-goers, soccer fans, and Parisians while enjoying a Friday night out at popular nightspots.

The series of attacks commenced with two suicide bombings and an explosion outside the national stadium during a soccer match.

As soon as the police become aware of the attack, the president, whom was at the match, was escorted from the soccer stadium.

Within minutes another group of attackers sprayed cafes outside of a concert hall with machine gunfire.

Then they stormed inside the concert hall, and opened fire on a panicked audience.

As / When police approached the attackers, the attackers killed themselves.

In addition to the deaths at the soccer stadium and concert hall, dozens of others were killed at other locations during the night.

By the time the attacks were over, at least 127 people were dead.

The police believe that all of the attackers are now dead.

It has been the deadliest violence to strike France since the Second World War.